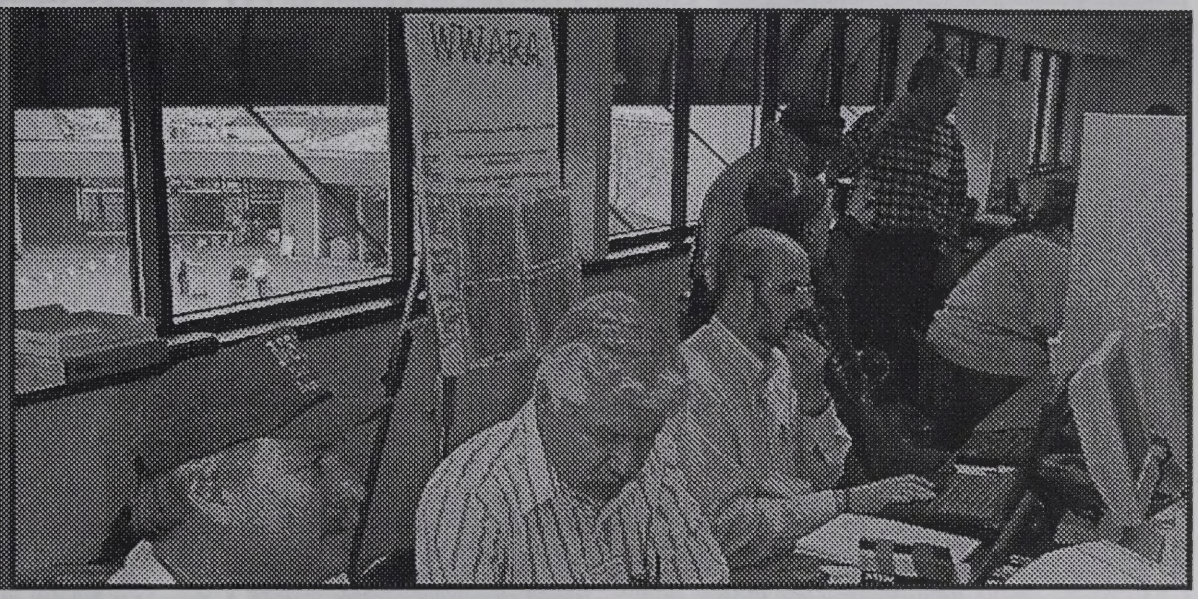
Western Washington Amateur Relay Association

The Coordinator



Mark McClain N6OBY, Ed Bruette N7NVP and Marty Hadfield WB7AFV represented the WWARA at the Mike and Key Club flea market March 10, 2000

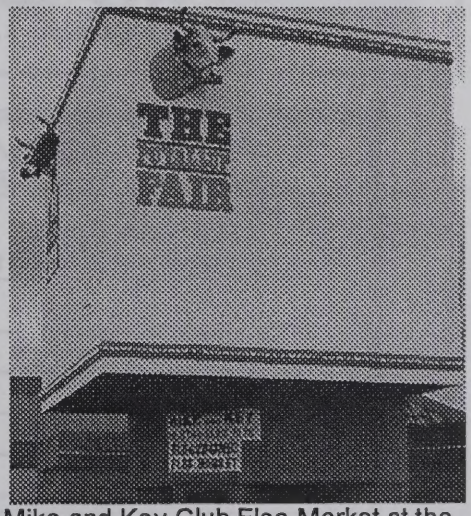
WWARA Scores a Big Hit at Puyallup

In what could only be considered to be a big hit, the WWARA scored big at the Mike and Key Club's electronic flea market at the Puyallup Fair grounds. This year thanks to Marty Hadfield WB7AFV WWARA's chief technical committee chairman, over 100 people visited the WWARA display. Why? Marty brought with him some very sophisticated software for plotting coverage of radio transmitters from V-Soft Communications and set up several monitors for general viewing.

The V-Soft software uses a prediction model called Longley-Rice which will graphically display the calculated coverage of a given transmitter provided longitude, latitude, antenna gain, direction and ERP (see sample on page 2). During the day Marty plotted 18 different repeaters and provided 22 plots on disk while answering numerous questions.

Over the last year Marty has been using this software to help the WWARA with its coordination activities. When allegations of interference or the potential for interference has existed Marty has been prompt with the plots for the WWARA board and band chairmen to review. Marty has been able to plot each of the repeaters in question and plot where any anticipated interference between the two will likely to occur. Additionally, based on Marty's input the WWARA has been able to show how the use of directional antennas could be used to significantly reduce interference between two repeaters.

Marty is the vice president of engineering for Entercom, Inc. Entercom is a large national enter-



Mike and Key Club Flea Market at the Puyallup Fair Grounds

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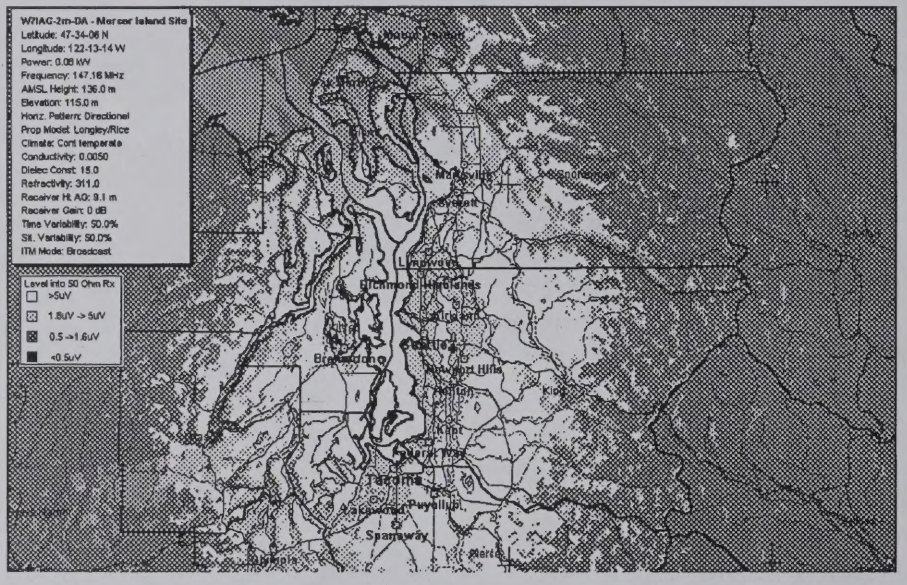
WWARA Scores Hit

Continued from page 1

Marty WB7AFV shows another ham the prediction software

tainment / media company who owns and operates over 100 radio stations nationally and 8 stations locally. Some of the stations under Marty you might recognize are; KBSG, KISW, KQBZ, KMTT, KNDD, KIRO-AM, KBSG-AM and KNWX. Because of his position and need for accurate transmitter coverage for their stations Marty and Entercom acquired the V-Soft Communications software. When asked if he had a good time Marty responded, "Absolutely!" and volunteered to be back next year schedule permitting.



Western Washington Amateur Relay Association

16541 Redmond Way – PMB 243, Redmond, WA. 98052-4482

EASY PAYMENT FORM

My enclosed check is for: Check # _____

____ year(s) Dues @ $12/year Total $ _____

____ Rptr Directories @ $6 each for members ($8.95 each for non-members)

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Addr: _____ **Freq:** _____

City: _____ **ST:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

Home #: _____ **Work #:** _____

Email: _____

Admin area: CL:_____ DB:_____ QB:_____ RD:_____ TN:_____

SOS: A Call To Action

By Dick Isely, W9GIG

Save Our Spectrum! The Amateur Radio Service is entering a period of great peril. It looks like the FCC is going to be even more "hands off" than before. The Commission's new Chairman, Michael Powell, is apparently a firm believer in marketplace-dictated policies. This is a real threat to our radio service.

The demand for more commercial-use spectrum coupled with our shrinking and aging ham population, will probably result in loss of spectrum by the Amateur Radio Service. The commercial pressures I am talking about are not the proposed "Little LEO Satellites" - which could still be a problem. I'm talking about a far more insidious and wide-spread threat to our precious spectrum. I'm talking about the rapidly expanding use of un-licensed Part 15 devices and licensed devices for high speed, broad band wireless Internet communications.

We have uneasily co-existed with Part 15 devices and the early model wireless phones. Up until now, they have not been a serious threat because of the small number of devices sold and people using them. With the advent of millions of wireless Internet connections, this is about to change. The RF noise floor will rise, first in the large population centers and then in the rural areas. Amateur VHF and higher weak signal users will be the first to be negatively affected. [See ***Wireless Net RFI*** in this issue] But as this noise floor rises, repeater users, satellite users, and even HF operators will be impacted. You will need more RF output to overcome this noise level and this will exacerbate a far bigger, critical problem.

Even though the wireless Internet users are supposed to accept interference from licensed users of the spectrum, what do you think will happen when forty plus million of them are getting interference from about six hundred thousand of us? Congress and/or the FCC will take action and we will lose unless...

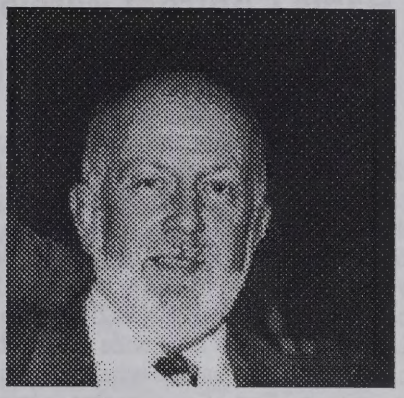
Unless we increase our numbers and <u>really</u> get into public service activities, we will not have much of a chance in

the halls of Congress. The ARRL is developing a long-term educational program designed to reach out to the 10-14 year age group and get a lot of them involved in Amateur Radio. Over the next few decades, this should result in a more knowledgeable and supportive general populace. The League will provide the structure, but it is up to all of us to make it work. A lot of people will be needed to staff this operation.

We will also need a lot more volunteers for even more public service activities. I know that some hams look down on this as "newbie no-code junior G-man stuff" suitable only for the ham shack-on-a belt types. But if we fail in these efforts, our concerns about Morse code usage and the so-called dumbing down of our service will become moot points if there are very few licensees left and even less spectrum available. We will become irrelevant in our wireless Internet-obsessed society.

Now you may be thinking "This does not affect me." This may be true now, but I can virtually guarantee that you will be affected in the future. The only argument is how soon it will start to happen: Five years? Ten years from now? It all depends on how fast these wireless devices multiply and how long it takes Congress to act. I figure we have about five years to reverse our license down-trend and get many more people active in our hobby. The time for debating whether or not we should act is past. The time for action is now. When calls for help in both of these activities are issued... Please volunteer!

Clays Corner
April 2001



Clay Freinwald - K7CR

Did your repeater system survive the 6.8? I certainly hope so. Tuning around on 2 meters after the quake the level of activity was probably at an all time high. Like previous big earthquakes you will long remember where you were and what you were doing during this one. I still vivid memories from the 1965 and 1949 shakers. This time I just happened to be at the KIRO-TV Ch 7 site on Queen Anne Hill. While it was still going on I went outside to check on the tower...Wow!...you would have thought that it was made of rubber. That big long antenna at the top looked like a rubber ducky being waved overhead. When the top had moved to the South the tower said it was time to move back North. The tower was making sounds that you NEVER want to hear any tower making. The only report that I have heard about a tower failure was that the top 40 or so feet of the old KJR Radio tower on the Duwamish broke off. As if this were not enough a sewer line broke and a pump failed and their transmitter filled with awful stuff.

Is it time that your repeater joined EAS? In looking at the latest Repeater Journal (publication of SERA) I noted an ad for a NOAA Weather Radio receiver that went into detail on how it could be integrated into Amateur Repeater systems. For those of you who are not up to speed on EAS, this is the Emergency Alert System that you hear tests for periodically on Radio and TV. The system enables government entities (Federal, State, Local and NOAA) to communicate with the public via Broadcast, Cable and NOAA systems.

The most used function of EAS is for NOAA Weather Warnings. With the addition of one of these receivers to your system in this area your users could be immediately alerted to not only weather warnings, but other EAS messages that are also relayed by Seattle's NOAA system.

A work of caution. A simply receiver tuned to 162.550 will just play NOAA's computer generated voice on and on and on....however if you carefully shop around you will be able to find a receiver that will respond to the digital codes that are also part of the EAS/NOAA-SAME coding scheme. This data stream (the one that sounds like a series of buzzzaps on Radio and TV) tells the receivers out there a number of important things, like who sent the message, what the event is, the duration and who its intended for. By incorporating one of these new 'smart' receivers into your system you would be able to alert your users or club to events that are specific to the area where you have coverage.

For more information on this, check the noaa.gov web sites and other related web locations...If you'd like more information about EAS, give me a call or drop me a note.

73

Clay Freinwald, K7CR

Is Your Certificate of Coordination Current? How about your dues?

Rumor has it that IT is coming! IT's orange! IT's in high demand! Reserve yours now so you can get IT before others get IT.

The Coordinator

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Hams Confront Wireless Internet Services

by Ed Mitchell KF7VY
http://www.hamradio-online.com/

Back in February 1999, I wrote about the potential for conflict between amateur radio and wireless Internet service. My prediction just came true. Hams in Dallas, TX filed a complaint against an Internet Service Provider that provides high-speed access using Part 15 (IEEE 802.11) wireless LAN technologies over wide areas. The complaint notes that the wireless ISP is an unprotected Part 15 service that is interfering with Amateur Radio operations (a protected, licensed service) and have asked the FCC for assistance. The wireless ISP initially claimed to be a Part 18 (ISM) service, which they are not and the FCC has given them 10 days to explain how they will resolve the situation.

Most ISPs are using unlicensed Part 15 wireless data devices to provide high-speed Internet services. A survey done in early 2000 found that 100% of sampled ISPs were either implementing unlicensed wireless internet access, or conducting research and experiments in expectation of doing so very soon. The ARRL's news bulletin does not reveal that this enforcement action has lit a fire under ISPs nationwide. ISPs believe they are providing a public service to tens of thousands of Internet users, a group that vastly outnumbers Amateur Radio operators using the co-allocated Part 15 bands. They believe that the public's interest is better served by their applications, than by those of the Amateur service.

In February, 1999, I wrote that "Legally, Amateur radio operators have Federal communications law on their side. Home networking equipment operates under Part 15 rules and must put up with any interference it receives from licensed radio services. Realistically, while the law is on the side of Amateur radio, home network and Internet users vastly outnumber Amateur radio operators. The politics of the situation do not favor Amateur radio operation...."

To say that this issue is a delicate situation is an understatement. Amateurs are co-secondary users of the bands at 902-928 Mhz, 2.4-2.450 and 5.7 Ghz - all of which are being aggressively used by wireless Internet service providers. While the law favors Amateur Radio, the political question comes down to who, realistically, is providing the greatest value to the largest numbers of the public? This situation could be the first shot in a very difficult public relations battle for ham radio versus wireless ISPs.

Correspondence/Transaction Log 01/01/2001-02/28/2001

01/01/2001... Email to WILLIAM HENRY, KJ7FD
01/01/2001... Email to DAVID TITUS, KB7ILD
01/02/2001... Email to CARL HOLMAN, K7CH
01/03/2001... Email to/from CARL HOLMAN, K7CH
01/03/2001... Email to ARRL- BRENNAN PRICE, K4QZ
01/04/2001... Email to TRACY, W7TRX
01/05/2001... Email to DON ANDERSON, AB7V
01/05/2001... Email from TRACY, W7TRX
01/06/2001... Email from DICK MORRISON, K7KFM
01/06/2001... Email from/to BILL ROURKE, W7ERH
01/06/2001... Received On-line renewal, $22 for Dues, RF from CECIL A BURLESON, K7HW
01/10/2001... Email to DICK MORRISON, K7KFM
01/12/2001... Email from DICK MORRISON, K7KFM
01/13/2001... Email from DAVE AMOS, WB7DFV
01/13/2001... Received On-line renewal, $10 for RF from JAMES LOFGREN, KC7JM
01/13/2001... Received $12 for Dues from PUGET SOUND RPTR GRP, W7VHY
01/14/2001... Email from MARK MC CLAIN, N6OBY
01/14/2001... Emails to RICK HODGES, KB7TBF
01/16/2001... Email to TRACY, W7TRX
01/16/2001... Email from/to DAVE, KI7YP
01/16/2001... Email from/to BOB GUDGEL, K7IQ
01/17/2001... Email from/to DAVE, KI7YP
01/19/2001... Email from PETE KRUML, N7KFJ
01/19/2001... Email from RALPH LUCIER, KA7VEE
01/20/2001... Email from BOB JOHNSON, WA7ZWG
01/20/2001... Received 2 TD's, $42 for Dues, CF from BRYON GUNNERSON, WB0CZA
01/20/2001... Received TD, $15 for CF from ED BRUETTE, N7NVP
01/20/2001... Received On-line renewal, $22 for Dues, RF from JOE BASTA, WB7TOI
01/20/2001... Received $12 for Dues from MASON COUNTY ARC, N7SK
01/21/2001... Email to BOB HESELBERG, K7MXE
01/21/2001... Email to CARL HOLMAN, K7CH
01/21/2001... Email to ARRL- BRENNAN PRICE, K4QZ
01/21/2001... Email from JOSH, KD4TTA
01/22/2001... Email from BOB HESELBERG, K7MXE
01/24/2001... Email from BOB HESELBERG, K7MXE
01/24/2001... Received $12 for Dues from THOMAS MURPHY, N7QHX
01/24/2001... Received Online renewal, $30 for Dues, RF, RD from JOHN LEADEN, K7CHN
01/24/2001... Received On-line renewal, Donation, $30 for CF, RF from R. VERSCHUYL, K7AAE
01/24/2001... Received TD Sheet (Update only), $0 from JOHN STEIN, AB7F
01/24/2001... Received Donation, $16 for Dues from ROBERT WORMLEY, W7QA
01/24/2001... Received $24 for Dues from DON ROSE, W7JPH
01/24/2001... Received 2 TD's, $30 for CF from PETE KRUML, N7KFJ
01/24/2001... Received $12 for Dues from JOHN LEADEN, K7CHN
01/24/2001... Received TD, Donation, $40 cash for Dues, CF from FRANK VOLZ, KA7DNK
01/24/2001... Received $18 for Dues, RD from RICK HYDE, N7EHP
01/24/2001... Received On-line renewal, $0 from JIM CORNELL, WF7W
01/24/2001... Received $12 for Dues from GEORGE LANNING, KB6LE
01/24/2001... Received $36 for Dues from TERRENCE DUMMLER, WQ7A
01/24/2001... Received $18 for Dues, RD from TODD FELIX, K7RUE
01/24/2001... Received $12 for Dues from JEFFREY WITHERS, W3GE
01/24/2001... Received $18 for Dues, RD from ORVILLE ADAIR, K7LVB
01/24/2001... Received $12 for Dues from FRANK TATE, W7AW
01/24/2001... Received $30 for Dues, RD from JACK BURRELL, N7ZS
01/25/2001... Email to FRANK VOLZ, KA7DNK
01/25/2001... Email update from BOB TOMAS, N7KTP
01/25/2001... Email to/from BILL ROURKE, W7ERH
01/25/2001... Emails to ARRL- BRENNAN PRICE, K4QZ
01/26/2001... Email PETE KRUML, N7KFJ
01/26/2001... Email from BILL ROURKE, W7ERH
01/27/2001... Email from/to LOREN HOLE, KK7M
01/27/2001... Email to MIKE KUNTZ
01/27/2001... Received TD, $70 for Dues from RICHARD GIBBS, KA7AEF
01/27/2001... Received $12 for Dues, from MIKE OLDS, WA7ZUS
01/28/2001... Email to JOSH, KD4TTA
01/28/2001... Email to BOB TOMAS, N7KTP
01/28/2001... Email KIRK BELLAR, N7UK
01/28/2001... Email to CARL HOLMAN, K7CH
01/28/2001... Email to AL BURLESON, K7HW
01/28/2001... Email to JEAN KROUM, KC7AVP
01/29/2001... Email from/to JEAN KROUM, KC7AVP
01/29/2001... Email to/from ROB SIMONSON, WA7ROB
02/01/2001... Received Fee's on account, $100 from PETE POLICANI, K7PP
02/01/2001... Received $12 for Dues from RICK HODGES, KB7TBF

Correspondence / Transaction Log
continued

02/01/2001... Received TD, $10 for RF from WILLIAM HUNHOLZ, N7HNM
02/01/2001... Received $30 cash for RD from STEPHEN PRUSS, KB7WKK
02/01/2001... Received $15 for Dues, RD from SCOTT CURRIE, KJ7QY
02/01/2001... Received $20 for Dues, RD from STEVE SZOMBATHY, W7UDI
02/01/2001... Received $15.2 for RD from TRACY OLSON, W7TRX
02/01/2001... Received $12 for Dues from JOHN WILLIAMS, WA7HNH
02/01/2001... Received TD, $24 for Dues from TOM KLEIN, N7BI
02/01/2001... Received TD, $22 for Dues, CF from PATRICK SENKO, WA7USJ
02/01/2001... Received TD, $15 for CF from PETE KRUML, N7KFJ
02/01/2001... Email from DAVE AMOS, WB7DFV
02/02/2001... Received 2 On-line renewals, $0 CF, RF from PETE POLICANI, K7PP
02/07/2001... Email to JOHN LEADEN, K7CHN
02/07/2001... Email from KIRK BELLAR, N7UK
02/08/2001... Received 2 On-line Updates, $0 RF from PETE POLICANI, K7PP
02/08/2001... Email to SCOTT CURRIE, KJ7QY
02/08/2001... Received 2 On-line updates, $0 from PETE POLICANI, K7PP
02/09/2001... Received $24 for Dues from FRED TELEWSKI, WA7TZY
02/09/2001... Received $12 for Dues from NORM RAY, W7DX
02/09/2001... Received 3 On-line Renewals, $30 for RF from STEVEN KOMETZ, N7KP
02/09/2001... Received TD, $15 for CF from STEVEN KOMETZ, N7KP
02/09/2001... Received TD, $24 for Dues from DALE HAVENS, KF7JC
02/09/2001... Received $12 for Dues from LAURENCE LOREE, K7HRN
02/09/2001... Received $12 for Dues from STEVEN ZIELKE, N7JLF
02/09/2001... Received $12 for Dues from JIM KAUFMAN, W7UMH
02/09/2001... Email to BOB JOHNSON, WA7ZWG
02/09/2001... Email from/to JOHN LEADEN, K7CHN
02/11/2001... Email to/from RON VERSCHUYL, K7AAE
02/11/2001... Email to ROBERT WORMLEY, W7QA
02/12/2001... Received $48 for Dues from MARTIN HADFIELD, WB7AFV
02/12/2001... Received TD, $0 from JON FORTIER, N7WDF
02/12/2001... Received $12 for Dues from GENE COLSON, W7UVH
02/12/2001... Received $12 for Dues from BOB LEWIS, KC7TGA
02/12/2001... Email to ROBERT WORMLEY, W7QA
02/12/2001... Email to PETE KRUML, N7KFJ
02/13/2001... Email from BRYON GUNNERSON,
02/13/2001... Received $36 for Dues from GLENN ENGEL, NN7N
02/13/2001... Email to WILLIAM HARWELL, NO7S
02/14/2001... Email to BOB TOMAS, N7KTP
02/15/2001... Received Address update from BARRY PALMORE, WA7QIH
02/16/2001... Email to BARRY PALMORE, WA7QIH
02/17/2001... Correspondence to JAMIE HUGHES, KD7HPE
02/17/2001... Correspondence to PATRICK SENKO, WA7USJ
02/17/2001... Emails to JOHN STEIN, AB7F
01/20/2001... Email to BOB JOHNSON, WA7ZWG
02/18/2001... Email from FRANK WOLFE, NM7R
02/18/2001... Email from JOHN STEIN, AB7F
02/18/2001... Email from/to BOB DONNELL, KD7NM
02/18/2001... Email to BRYON GUNNERSON,
02/18/2001... Email to JON FORTIER, N7WDF
02/18/2001... Email to CHARLES MILLER, KC7BNP
02/21/2001... Received $15 for CF, from JON FORTIER, N7WDF
02/21/2001... Email from JON FORTIER, N7WDF
02/24/2001... Received TD, $0 for from RONALD VERSCHUYL, K7AAE
02/24/2001... Received TD, $15 for CF, from JOHN STEIN, AB7F
02/24/2001... Received $75 for RD, from RADIO DEPOT
02/24/2001... Received $5 cash for from PATRICK SENKO, WA7USJ
02/28/2001... Received $12 for Dues, from ROGER HANSEN, W6TOZ

LEGEND: TD= Technical Data Sheet, CF= Coordination Fee, RD= Renewal Fee, RD= Repeater Directory

AMATEUR RADIO MOUNTS QUICK QUAKE RESPONSE

Hams responded within minutes after an earthquake hit the Seattle area the morning of February 28. The epicenter was some 35 miles southwest of Seattle, but the quake was felt as far away as Salt Lake City. Washington Gov Gary Locke declared a state of emergency for western Washington.

As of week's end, Amateur Radio had scaled back its response as power and telephone service returned to the stricken region. Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) teams in the quake zone were mobilized within minutes of the event. The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) and the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) also activated.

Residents in the affected region now are picking up the pieces. Damage estimates could top $2 billion. Upwards of 350 injuries—a few of them serious enough to require hospitalization—were reported, but no deaths were directly attributed to the earthquake.

ARRL Western Washington Section Manager Harry Lewis, W7JWJ, reported that very soon after the quake struck, State RACES Officer Jim Sutton, WA7PHD, was on the air, handling net control duties for the Washington State Emergency Net on 75 meters from the State Emergency Operations Center at Camp Murray. Western Washington Section Nets also activated on HF SSB, and in the Seattle area, ARES volunteers had mounted an emergency repeater net with King County EC Rich Hodges, KB7TBF, and Lt. Russ Reed, N7NOV, of the US Coast Guard sharing NCS chores. Several other county ARES nets took to the air.

Amateur Radio operators also set up a temporary 2-meter net to assist the Red Cross with damage assessment. An unconfirmed report says one ham used an ATV link from a helicopter to the State EOC—where Gov Locke was on hand—to survey the damage below.

While Eastern Washington was not as badly affected, Spokane County ARES/RACES activated to assist. Because the Spokane County Department of Emergency Management had trouble maintaining contact with the State EOC at Camp Murray, an auxiliary cross-state link was established via the Washington Emergency Net. "This HF link was maintained by Spokane County's off-site Official Emergency Stations, communicating with operators at

the County EOC by 2 meters," said Spokane County EC Nathan Jeffries, KI7QT, who said the action drew later praise from a County emergency official.

Eastern Washington SM Kyle Pugh, KA7CSP, said "a loose information net" also fired up on 40 meters to handle general inquiries and health-and-welfare traffic.

The Alaska Pacific Emergency Preparedness Net also took the airwaves on 20 meters (14.292 MHz). "The net was opened within minutes of the quake, and hundreds of messages were passed," said Bob Baker, NL7UH, in Anchorage, Alaska. Baker praised net participants for their "very highly professional manner. The net was formed after the 1964 Alaska earthquake, and it includes several net control stations in Alaska and in the "Lower 48."

The SATERN Net activated for about six hours on 20 meters (14.265 MHz), processing health-and-welfare information requests and handing out situation reports from Washington and Oregon amateur stations. "Scores of stations over the nation assisted in relay," said National SATERN Director Pat McPherson, WW9E. SATERN's Web site, www.go.to/satern , remains available for inquiries.

Lewis said he was "deeply impressed" by the speedy amateur response.

EX-HAM GETS JAIL, PROBATION FOR UNLICENSED OPERATION

Former amateur Richard Allen Burton this week was sentenced to three months in jail and one year's probation for unlicensed operation of a radio transmitter. Burton also must undergo psychological treatment.

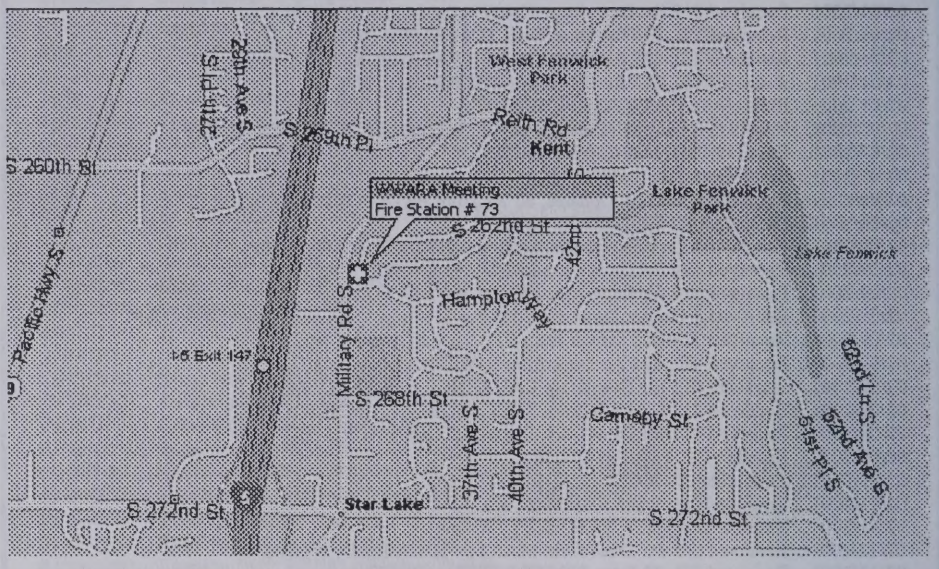
Burton was sentenced January 22. The FCC says he'd been operating without a license on repeaters in Southern California. Burton is scheduled to report to the US Marshal's office on February 26 to begin serving his jail term. He has been free on $20,000 bond.

Formerly WB6JAC, Burton, lost his General ticket in 1981 as a result of unspecified violations. Since then, he's racked up a lengthy history of alleged unlicensed operation, most or all of it on amateur frequencies. He has served jail time and probation as a result of earlier convictions.

Burton was arrested last August 5 following his indictment by a federal grand jury in California. He faced six felony counts of violating the Communications Act of 1934.

Meeting Notice....

The next WWARA Membership meeting will be April 7, 2001 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Kent Fire Station #73.



DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS -

From the North or From the South...Take the 272nd Street Exit #147 from I-5

Go EAST on 272nd.

Immediately get in the left hand turn lane at the first traffic signal

Turn left (you are now going North) onto Military Road.

Follow Military Road North for about ½ mile, Fire station is on the RIGHT.

Need further directions?

Call Clay Freinwald, K7CR on his cell phone 206-947-6115

AMATEUR RADIO GIANT BILL ORR, W6SAI, SK

Another Amateur Radio legend is gone. William I. "Bill" Orr, W6SAI, of Menlo Park, California, died in his sleep January 24. He was 81.

An ARRL member, Orr was best known for his numerous amateur radio books and reference works, many aimed at beginners. His titles include The Radio Handbook, The Beam Antenna Handbook, The Quad Antenna Handbook, The VHF-UHF Manual and The W6SAI HF Antenna Handbook, some written in collaboration with Stu Cowan, W2LX. Ironically, friends say, the lack of an antenna in recent days had kept Orr off the air.

Licensed in 1934 at age 15 as W2HCE in New York, Orr graduated in electrical engineering from the University of California in the early 1940s.

In his younger years, Orr was a well-known DXer and DXCC Honor Roll member. He also was involved in DXpeditions to various exotic locations, including St Pierre and Miquelon and Monaco, among other locales.

From the 1940s through the 1980s, Orr was a frequent contributor to QST, writing about tube-type amplifiers, Project OSCAR, and other topics. Orr constructed some of the amplifiers once used at ARRL Maxim Memorial Station W1AW.

FCC LAUNCHES REVIEW OF LA AREA REPEATER

The FCC has launched a review into the operation of the W6NUT repeater in the Los Angeles area. The repeater, which has attracted a following of what some observers call "nontraditional" amateur users, also was said to have been radio home of Richard Burton, ex-WB6JAC, sentenced earlier this year to prison for unlicensed operation.

"We've gotten more complaints about that repeater than any other repeater in the country, FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth said of the W6NUT machine, which operates on 147.435 MHz. "If there's a control operator, we sure haven't seen any evidence of it."

Hollingsworth wrote the repeater's trustee, Kathryn Tucker, AA6TK, and two W6NUT users regarding lengthy broadcasts made over the repeater in early February. Hollingsworth told Tucker that the FCC has received complaints that control operators and the repeater licensee "fail to address long periods of jamming by users, broadcasting, music playing as well as a plethora of other violations."

He cited one transmission of more than two hours on the evening of February 1-2 that included music and commentaries on many of the songs. A similar lengthy broadcast aired over W6NUT a few evenings later, he said. Both transmissions repeatedly timed out the repeater, Hollingsworth said, and there was no evidence that a control operator was present at any time.

In separate letters to Technician licensees Ted R. Sorensen III, KC6PQW, and Gregory S. Cook, KC6USO, Hollingsworth cited monitoring information alleging that Sorenson actually transmitted both broadcasts. On the first occasion, on February 1-2, Sorenson is said to have acted in concert with Cook, who was hooked in via phone patch. The second similar transmission February 4-5 was said to have featured only Cook, again via phone patch to Sorenson's transmitter, Hollingsworth said.

Citing Sec 308(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, Hollingsworth requested that all three licensees respond to the allegations within 20 days. In addition, Hollingsworth asked Tucker to furnish specific details about the W6NUT repeater system, including names of control operators on duty on the two evenings in question.

Cook's license is due to expire May 7, 2001. Hollingsworth advised Cook that his renewal application would "not be routinely granted unless these issues are resolved" and that his renewal application could wind up being designated for hearing.

MAINE LAWMAKERS KILL MOBILE HAND-HELD DEVICES BILL

A Maine legislative committee has killed a bill that would have made it illegal to use hand-held electronic devices such as cellphones and two-way radios while driving. ARRL State Government Liaison Zane Keeler, AA1WV, reports the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation on February 21 reported out an ought-not-to-pass recommendation for LD 95.

The bill would have restricted the use of hand-held cellular telephones as well as "computers, Citizens Band radios, dictaphones, microphones and other electronic devices" not essential to the operation of a vehicle on Maine's highways.

The same legislative panel also turned away a similar, but less restrictive bill, LD 102. Both bills would have permitted the use of hands-free accessories for cellular telephones used on the road.

The committee's vote on both bills was 7-1. Keeler said both bills are dead for the current session. Those opposing the bill included several Maine Amateur Radio operators, cellular telephone providers, emergency medical service providers, and the American Automobile Association. The state Highway Safety Bureau took "a neutral position" on the measures.

Several hams, including Maine Section Manager Bill Woodhead, N1KAT, were on hand February 12 for a public hearing before the legislature's Transportation Committee. Keeler said a half-dozen Maine hams showed up for the February 21 legislative workshop.

In Maryland, a bill to ban the use of hand-held cellular telephones while driving was killed February 15 by a House of Delegates committee on a 14-7 vote. Several other states are considering similar measures. While no states have banned cellular telephone use altogether, California, Florida and Massachusetts impose some restrictions on their use. Nearly 40 states have considered such legislation since 1995. Five municipalities require drivers to use hands-free technology within their borders.

LEAGUE SEEKS GREATER FLEXIBILITY AT 219-220 MHz

The ARRL is urging the FCC to retain the 219-220 MHz shared Amateur Radio allocation and says it wants the Commission to make it a bit easier for hams to use the segment. In comments filed February 6 in an FCC rulemaking proceeding, the ARRL said it believes the 219-220 MHz band "must be maintained and enhanced."

The League commented in PR Docket 92-257, released last November. The Third Further Notice in that proceeding proposed to designate licensing regions for the Automated Maritime Telecommunications System (AMTS) facilities at 216-220 MHz and to authorize a single licensee for each unassigned AMTS frequency block on a geographic basis. The current AMTS system uses a site-based licensing structure.

Current rules require that amateurs planning to operate within 80 km (50 miles) of an AMTS facility get written permission from the AMTS licensee, but getting that consent has been difficult to impossible for hams in coastal areas. "The Commission's intended flexibility in amateur station operation at 219-220 MHz has not, in general, been realized," the League commented.

The ARRL suggested letting amateurs seeking to use 219-220 MHz submit computer-generated field strength contours that demonstrate a lack of interference potential at the relevant AMTS boundaries in lieu of having to get written permission.

"It is ARRL's intention that the Amateur Service be provided a practical opportunity to make substantial, flexible use on a secondary basis of the 219-220 MHz allocation, taking into account expanded development of AMTS stations," the League said. The FCC should "provide some flexibility in the engineering of amateur systems in that band, to the extent consistent with avoidance of interference to AMTS stations."

The 219-220 MHz amateur segment was created in 1995 as a result of an ARRL petition for rulemaking. The FCC has designated the band on a secondary basis for amateur fixed point-to-point digital message forwarding systems.

While the ARRL said it's unaware of any amateur interference to AMTS stations, attempts by hams to use the band to construct digital backbone systems "have been largely thwarted to date" because on the inability to get consent from AMTS licensees within 50 miles of the proposed operation, as rules now require.

FCC ADOPTS CONSENT DECREE IN AMATEUR INTERFERENCE CASE

The second amateur cited by the FCC in a 1999 malicious interference case in Pennsylvania has cut a deal with the FCC to avoid paying a $7500 fine. The FCC this week adopted a consent decree terminating its proceeding against Michael E. Gallagher, KB1DTA (ex-KB3DHX), of West Concord, Massachusetts. In exchange for not having to pay the fine, Gallagher agreed to turn in his ham ticket and not reapply for five years. He also must stay out of further trouble with the FCC.

The Commission said Gallagher had provided financial statements supporting his claim that paying the $7500 forfeiture would cause him financial hardship.

Barring any unforeseen circumstances, the December 18 consent decree wraps up the FCC's malicious interference investigation of Gallagher and Kornwell H. Chan, W3CI, of Dresher, Pennsylvania. Also facing a $7500 fine, Chan worked his own deal with the FCC last year. He agreed to give up his ham ticket until 2003 and cooperated with the FCC in its investigation. In exchange, the FCC waived the fine, provided there are no further violations.

In March 1999, Chan and Gallagher each were fined in connection with malicious interference to the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club VHF and UHF repeaters on two occasions the previous month. FCC personnel had monitored interfering signals that included transmissions of classical music and a person talking with a disguised voice. Using direction-finding gear, FCC agents tracked the signal to a vehicle in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, occupied by Chan and Gallagher and equipped with amateur gear.

In the consent decree, Gallagher agrees to not contest the findings of the Notice of Apparent Liability that he violated FCC rules in February 1999, although the findings may not be used against him in any current or future proceedings—provided Gallagher does not violate FCC rules or the consent decree provisions.

SAN FRANCISCO HAM LOSES ALL BUT HF CW PRIVILEGES FOR TWO YEARS

San Francisco amateur licensee Danny Kenwood, WA6CNQ, has again come in for FCC enforcement action. In an unusual enforcement twist, the FCC has modified Kenwood's General ticket to prohibit all amateur operation but HF Morse for a period of two years.

Kenwood lost his VHF and UHF privileges for 90 days in October 1999 following allegations of profanity, obscenity, and deliberate interference directed at users of the K7IJ Grizzly Peak repeater and of failure to properly identify. Last spring, the FCC issued a Warning Notice to Kenwood on the basis of reports from the K7IJ repeater system control operator that the repeater had to be shut down due to Kenwood's alleged "interference and harassment to other operators on the repeater system."

According to a December 5 letter to Kenwood from FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth, Kenwood voluntarily agreed to the HF CW-only modification, which begins November 30 and continues through November 2002. The prohibition extends to Kenwood's operation of any other amateur station as well as to operation of his own station by himself or anyone else.

AMATEUR RADIO: 136 KHZ ACROSS THE POND

Hams on both sides of the Atlantic have set a new one-way distance record on 136 kHz using ultra-slow CW and a 2 Hz bandwidth. Extremely slow dashes sent by M0BMU were identified by W4DEX in North Carolina at a distance of more than 6,300 km. This was the first time a European LF station had been received in the US. The following night, W4DEX copied a complete callsign from G3AQC. Using dot lengths of 60 seconds, the call took an hour to send!

FCC SEEKS TO REQUIRE FCC REGISTRATION NUMBER

The FCC has proposed requiring that everyone it does business with obtain and use an FCC Registration Number—or FRN. Many amateurs registered with the Universal Licensing System already have been assigned a 10-digit FRN by the Commission Registration System—or CORES. The FCC has not made FRN use mandatory, however. The FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (MD Docket 00-205) December 1.

The FCC says requiring individuals and entities to obtain an FRN will help it to better track and manage the collection of fees. The FCC proposes requiring that FRNs be provided with any filings that require payment of a fee, such as the vanity fee for amateurs.

The FCC is proposing to reject filings requiring an FRN that do not include the number. The Commission said its proposed rules "would make the use of the FRN mandatory in certain circumstances so that anyone not yet assigned an FRN or who has not yet obtained one must obtain one."

An individual does not have to hold an FCC license to obtain an FRN. The FCC says the information collected by CORES includes the "entity name and type," Taxpayer Identification Number or TIN—typically a Social Security Number for an individual, contact address and e-mail address. CORES information is not made public.

Comments on the FCC rulemaking notice are due 30 days from the date of publication in The Federal Register. Reply comments are due by 45 days from the date of publication.

The FCC began implementing CORES earlier this year. CORES registration eventually will replace Universal Licensing System, or ULS, registration. The FRN will co-exist with the Licensee ID Number issued by the ULS, an FCC spokesperson said this week.

More information on CORES is available on the FCC Web site, http://www.fcc.gov (click on the CORES registration link).

RADIO LAW: ILLEGAL CELLPHONE INTEREPT VS. FREDDOM OF THE PRESS

The United States Supreme Court will decide if federal and state laws preventing people from using information obtained through illegal wiretaps violate the First Amendment. This, following oral arguments heard by the court back on December 5th.

The case arises out of an intercepted cellular telephone conversation in 1993 between Pennsylvania teacher's union officials Gloria Bartnicki and Anthony Kane. Someone tapped into the call and recorded it. Local radio host Frederick Vopper played the tape on the air, justifying the move as necessary in the public interest.

Bartnicki and Kane filed suit, seeking money from Vopper and other parties under federal and Pennsylvania statutes providing penalties for those who use wiretapped information despite suspecting or knowing that the material was obtained illegally.

February 1, 2001 General Membership Meeting Minutes

The February 1st, General Membership Meeting was held at Kent Fire Station #73. Chairman Ed Bruette, N7NVP, called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

Introductions were made and a sign-in sheet was circulated. In attendance were:

Clay Freinwald- K7CR, Ralph Lucier- KA7VEE, Kirk Bellar- N7UK, Rick Hodges- KB7TBF, Stephen Pruss- KB7WKK, Jon Marcinko- WR7JM, Gene Colson- W7UVH, Carl Holman- K7CH, Peter Policani- K7PP, Steven Szombathy- W7UDI, Scott Currie- KJ7QY, Harry Lewis- W7JWJ, David Swartz- KC7RRH, John Mackey- KS0F, Ed Bruette- N7NVP, Mark McClain- N6OBY, and Marty Hadfield- WB7AFV.

The minutes from the December 2, 2000, General Meeting were approved.

Ed Bruette- N7NVP, discussed the rules for using the Fire Dept facility, and the fact that we had to be out no later than 9:00pm.

Current financial reports were distributed and approved.

ADJACENT AREAS:

-IACC: Ed Bruette- N7NVP, spoke with Doug Rider- KC7JC. Doug recently supplied his coordination data for inclusion in this year's Repeater Directory.

-B.C.: Ed advised that the BCARCC has supplied their coordination data for the Repeater Directory.

-ORRC: Ed has been talking with Carl Di Paolo- W7EXH, and feels he is establishing a good rapore. Ed reported the ORRC is discussing whether or not they will supply their coordination data for the 2001 WWARA Repeater Directory. John Mackey- KS0F, ORRC Secretary, confirmed that the ORRC has been discussing the topic of sharing database info.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

-Technical- Marty Hadfield- WB7AFV, provided a summary of the RF prediction plots he has produced for the K7KFM and W7SRZ repeaters. The plots represent the predicted coverage for each of the repeaters, as well as points of potential overlap and interfering signal levels. Marty stressed how important good coordinates are in pinpointing the location of a transmitter. Marty will be writing a series, on the use of prediction software and resulting data, which will be published in upcoming newsletters.

-6/10 Meters- Board actions: None.

Other/Pending: 53.43 (Bainbridge Is.) Bob Lewis- KC7TGA, on the air- testing. 52.89 (Winlock) Bob Simonson- WA7ROB, under construction. 53.75 (Sedro-Woolley) Bill Honholz- N7HNM, acquiring equipment.

-2 Meters- Board actions: None.

Other/Pending: 145.15 (KO Peak) Pete Policani- K7PP. 145.76 (Federal Way) David Swartz- KD7DPL. 14?.?? (Redmond) Kambiz Malekpour- KC7HIQ, looking for a pair. 147.16 (Mercer Island) Carter Powell- W7IAG, request for new coordination. 146.80 (Kirkland) John Schurman- AA7UJ, request for new repeater. 146.90 (Mt Constitution) Dick Morrison- K7KFM, move from Friday Harbor.

-220- Board actions: None.

Other/Pending: 224.50 (E. Tiger) Mark McClain- N6OBY, request to move from Cougar Mt.

-440- Board actions: None.

Other/Pending: 441.850 (Mt Brynion) Carl Di Paolo- W7EXH, request for new repeater. 440.775 (Seattle) Mark Sheppard- N7LYE, request for new repeater for packet. 444.125 (Index) Matt Kula- KJ7HS, modify existing coordination. 443.500 (Vashon Is.) Dave Olson- KL7K, request for new repeater. 444.300 (Woodland) Will Pickering- KA7WJR, request for new repeater. 441.825? (Shoreline) Erik Hokanson- N7UGG, request for new repeater. 441.600 (Winlock) Rob Simonson- WA7ROB, request for new repeater. 443.450 (Mt Constitution) Dick Morrison- K7KFM, move from Friday Harbor. 44?.??? (Skagit) Ralph Lucier- KA7VEE, request for a new repeater. 443.875 (Skagit) Ralph Lucier- KA7VEE, request for a (2nd) new repeater. 444.550 (Tumwater) Leslie Whisler- KD7HTE, request for new coordination.

-900/1.2- Board actions: None.

Other/Pending: 927.600 (University Place) Rob Lee- K7TGU, application for new repeater.

OLD BUSINESS

-Letter to ORRC regarding 145.15: No update.

-Separating Secretary/Treasurer position: Board is discussing options.

NEW BUSINESS

-eGroups: Ed Bruette- N7NVP, spoke about eGroups merging with Yahoo Groups, and gave a summary on how the WWARA utilizes the remailer service.

-2001 WWARA Repeater Directory: Ed Bruette- N7NVP, said the WWARA will publish a 2001 directory. He reported that we have received all coordination data from adjacent areas except the ORRC's. Jon Marcinko- WR7JM offered to contact some of the organizations/companies who have expressed interest in advertising in the directory. Ed commented that he would like to see our directory available by April 1st. ORRC Secretary, John Mackey- KS0F, said the ORRC Board will vote on whether or not to supply (sell) us their data at their Feb 17th Board meeting.

The WWARA has received payments for 24 of the 2000 Repeater Directory (which was never printed). These payments are being tracked and will be applied towards the 2001 Directory.

There was a discussion about including un-coordianted and/or expired coordination info in our Directory. Clay Freinwald- K7CR, commented that the ARRL is still discussing whether or not to include Band Plans in their repeater directory.

-NFCC: Clay Freinwald- K7CR, said the NFCB has reinforced the D'wana Terry ruling. Clay also reported that Commissioner Powell at the FCC is pro-enforcement.

-Clay Freinwald- K7CR, presented the Chair with a list of FAQ's (Frequently Asked Questions) for use on the WWARA Web Page.

-There was a brief discussion about the use of RF prediction software.

-Financial Review Committee: Under the new Bylaws, a financial review of the WWARA's financial records is to be completed with a report submitted at the February meeting. A financial review has not been scheduled. A motion was made, seconded, and passed, to allow a one-time exception to the Bylaws to appoint a Financial Review Committee, conduct the financial review prior to the April 7th meeting, and present the report at the April 7th meeting. Bob Lewis- KC7TGA, Rick Hodges- KB7TBF, and Jon Marcinko- WR7JM, volunteered for serve on the Committee.

-Committee Chairs: The selection process for Committees is underway. A list of individuals was created who have expressed interest in helping with particular bands; 10/6 Meters- Ed Bruette- N7NVP; 2 Meters- Al Burleson- K7HW, Pete Policani- K7PP, David Swartz- KC7RRH; 220 MHz- Ralph Lucier- KA7VEE, Peter Dahl- WA7FUS; 440 MHz- Carl Holman- K7CH, Rob Lee- K7TGU, Jon Marcinko- WR7JM; 900/1200 MHz- Gene Colson- W7UVH; Technical- Marty Hadfield- WB7AFV, Jon Marcinko- WR7JM, Clay Freinwald- K7CR. The Board will use the online voting function to make the selections.

-Clay Freinwald- K7CR, asked if we were going to meet with the ORRC. Ed Bruette- N7NVP said he talked to ORRC Chair, Carl Di Paolo- W7EXH, about it. Ken Rau- K7YR said the Foss facility in Ranier, OR is still available for our use and is a good halfway point for WWARA and ORRC members to meet.

-The Secretary expressed thanks to Rick Hodges- KB7TBF, for his help with last month's mailing of The Coordinator. Rick helped fold, stamp, label, and tape the more than 200 Coordinators that go out to members and coordination holders every other month.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, April 7, 2001 at 10:00am. The location and directions will be published on the web page.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm

Minutes by Mark McClain- N6OBY, Secretary/Treasurer.

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Dues Exp.
Dec. 1999

Western Washington Amateur Relay Association
PMB 243
16541 Redmond Way
Redmond, WA 98052

THE WESTERN WASHINGTON AMATEUR RELAY ASSOCIATION
SERVING REPEATER OWNERS AND USERS SINCE 1976

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2001

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Vice Chairman	Ken Rau	K7YR	425 222-7711
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Membership	Ken Rau	K7YR	425 222-7711
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2 Meters	Pete Policani	K7PP	k7pp@techline.com
220 MHZ	Ralph Lucier	KA7VEE	360 770-2975
440 MHZ	Carl Holman	K7CH	360 943-1801
900/1200	Gene Colson	W7UVH	360 492-4313

Please feel free to contact your WWARA officials at any time for additional information about the Association. The COORDINATOR is published 6 times a year and mailed to all parties having a WWARA coordinated system as well as those whom are paid USER members. Dues are $12 per calendar year. Address all formal correspondence and requests for coordination to:

Western Washington Amateur Relay Association
PMB 243 16541 Redmond Way